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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Miami Beach Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month Festival & Awards**

**Miami Beach, FL --** The City of Miami Beach takes pride in cultural diversity and will once again celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with an assortment of events, including the Ninth Annual Miami Beach Hispanic Heritage Festival on October 9.

This festival celebrates achievements and contributions of Latinos from past to present. Children from the city's Parks and Recreation after school programs in grades K-12 will present an array of Latin dance performances to music sung by popular Hispanic artists and groups.

The Hispanic Affairs Committee will also honor Miami Beach's Hispanic community leaders who have made a difference to the Miami Beach community with awards.

Each of the awardees is actively involved in fostering positive change in the community through involvement in civic and/or professional activities. This year, the Committee honors the following individuals in their respective categories:

- **Businessperson:** Margueritte Ramos, Outdoor Shade Company, is a hardworking, determined, leader who has helped to improve the large Hispanic community in North Beach.
- **Educator:** Lawrence Rodriguez, second grade teacher at North Beach Elementary, inspires his students each day to do better in school.
- **Public Safety:** Miami Beach Police Sergeant Jorge Garcia of the Internal Investigations Unit is the unit's Spanish-speaking representative and investigator for the multi-cultural department.
- **Adult Contributor to Youth:** Alexandra Oliva of Motivational Missionaries Tour mentors children and provides advice to those who are in need of guidance.
- **Other:** Leonor Hernandez is an outstanding and hardworking community member that assists those who live in Miami Beach, especially the seniors.

"Hispanics are a powerful voice on Miami Beach," said Frankie Trullenque, chairperson, Miami Beach Hispanic Affairs Committee. "And the winners exemplify the values that we most cherish - integrity, professionalism and a true caring for the community in which we live."

##

Past honorees include:

**2002**

Jorge M Gonzalez  
David de la Espriella  
Victor Diaz

**2003**

Eva Barreto  
Liliam Lopez  
Tanya Ludwig

**2004**

Raymond Adrian  
Alfredo Gonzalez  
Aida Marrero  
Jorge Martinez

**2005**

Luis Alsina  
Frank Carollo  
Lupe Diaz  
Marie Towers

**2006**

Maritza Ejenbaum  
Michael Gongora  
Daniel Morgalo  
Kelly Villoch

**2007**

Kathy Abbate  
Julio Blanco  
Romero Britto  
Nathalia Ramos  
Dr Karmenchu Santana-Vega  
Diana Susi

**2008**

Goldie James Maldonado  
Magaly Madrid  
Rafael Oviedo  
Daniel Veitia

**2009**

Armando Hernandez  
Gabriel Paez  
Howard Kaufman  
Ines Flax  
Pedro Martinez

**2010**

Elsa Urquiza  
Luis Hernandez  
Maria Acosta  
Margarita Cepeda  
Fernando Cid de Diego

**2011**

Ana Bolt  
Becky Cohen  
German Pena  
Magnolia Martinez  
Susan Riener

**2012**

Mark Causey  
Bryant Del Toro  
Samuel Karkassoni  
Richard Martinez  
Mara Mignardi  
Bea Pernia

**2013**

Tanya Diaz  
Joe Gato  
Karpawich Family  
David King  
Jose Rafael Martinez  
Herb Sosa

**2014**

Jessica Fuentes  
Alejandro Llaneras  
Lourdes Lopez  
Willie Priegues  
Carlos Rodriguez

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